

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 00999 130656Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EUR-12 /091 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7506
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, TV
SUBJECT: U. S. CLAIM TO TUVALU ISLANDS

1. THOMAS LAYNG, BRITISH COMMISSIONER OF TUVALU, REGISTERED PAINFUL SURPRISE TINGED WITH DISBELIEF WHEN I TOLD HIM 11 JUNE IN THE UK HIGH COMMISSION RESIDENCE THAT I HAD NOT BEEN BRIEFED ON THE USG CLAIM REGARDING THE TUVALU ISLANDS AND THAT THIS WAS A MATTER THAT PROPERLY IS BEING HANDLED IN WASHINGTON AND NOT OUT IN THE FIELD. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE MATTER WAS BEING DISCUSSED BETWEEN LONDON AND WASHINGTON AND SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT THAT THE U.S. CERTAINLY WILL NOT LIKE TO HAVE TUVALU REACH 1 OCTOBER DATE OF INDEPENDENCE WITH THE CLOUD OF THE USG CLAIM HANDING OVER THE LAGOON. HE FELT THAT IT WAS NOT QUITE FITTING FOR A COUNTRY LIKE THE U.S. TO PROLONG A DISPUTE THAT SEEMS TO REST ON "THE FLIMSIEST POSSIBLE LEGAL BASIS" NOT DID HE SEE HOW THE U.S. COULD FACE THE UNITED NATIONS AND CLAIM HALF OF TUVALU INCLUDING ITS CAPITAL JUST AS TUVALU WOULD BE ABOUT TO APPLY FOR UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP.

2. THE COMMISSIONER CONCLUDED THAT HE WILL USE OUR CONVERSATION AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIRE ANOTHER BROADSIDE AT LONDON ASKING
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HMG TO PRESS THE U.S. FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION BETWEEN NOW AND 1 OCTOBER.

3. COMMENT: WHILE COMMISSIONER LAYNG MAY HAVE BEEN DISPLAYING A TOUCH OF "LOCALITIS" IN HIS REACTION TO THE U.S. TUVALU DISPUTE THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE SAID ABOUT THE POINT THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION LOOKS AT LEAST UNTIDY IN VIEW OF THE IMPENDING

1 OCTOBER DATE OF TUVALU INDEPENDENCE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE I PLAN TO VISIT THE ISLAND BEFORE
INDEPENDENCE AND THEREFORE WILL BE SEEING LAYNG AGAIN TO SAY
NOTHING OF THE ISLAND'S OFFICIALS I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR INFORMATION
ON HOW MATTER STANDS AND WHAT ACTION USG IS LIKELY TO TAKE BE-
FORE 1 OCTOBER OR FOR THAT MATTER AFTER THAT DATE AS WELL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, ISLAND CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2367050
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U. S. CLAIM TO TUVALU ISLANDS
TAGS: PGOV, TV, US, UK
To: STATE
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Review Markings:
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